



**For Immediate Release
Feb. 17, 2005**

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Hoekstra Statement on Ambassador Negroponte Nomination to DNI

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra (R-MI), Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, on Thursday, Feb. 17, issued the following statement on the nomination of John Negroponte to serve as America's first Director of National Intelligence and Lt. Gen. Michael Hayden to serve as Deputy Director of National Intelligence:

“Having served the United States in eight countries throughout three continents over the past 40 years, including most recently Iraq, Ambassador Negroponte will bring with him a significant amount of foreign and government experience to the position of Director of National Intelligence.

“Ambassador Negroponte and Lt. Gen. Michael Hayden will be responsible for the significant challenge of implementing the sweeping reforms spelled out in the *Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act* signed into law last year.

“Their most important mission will be to ensure that the 15 agencies that make up the U.S. intelligence community operate as a cohesive organization that can identify threats to national security before they materialize. They will need to develop a strategic framework that allows for the timely dissemination of accurate intelligence, which will continue to be the most critical weapon in the global war on terror.

“Ambassador Negroponte and I have already been in contact, and it is clear that he respects the role of Congress in this process and that he wants to work together to accomplish the goal of increasing the safety and security of the United States. I congratulate Ambassador Negroponte and Lt. Gen. Hayden on their nominations, and I wish them well in the confirmation process.”